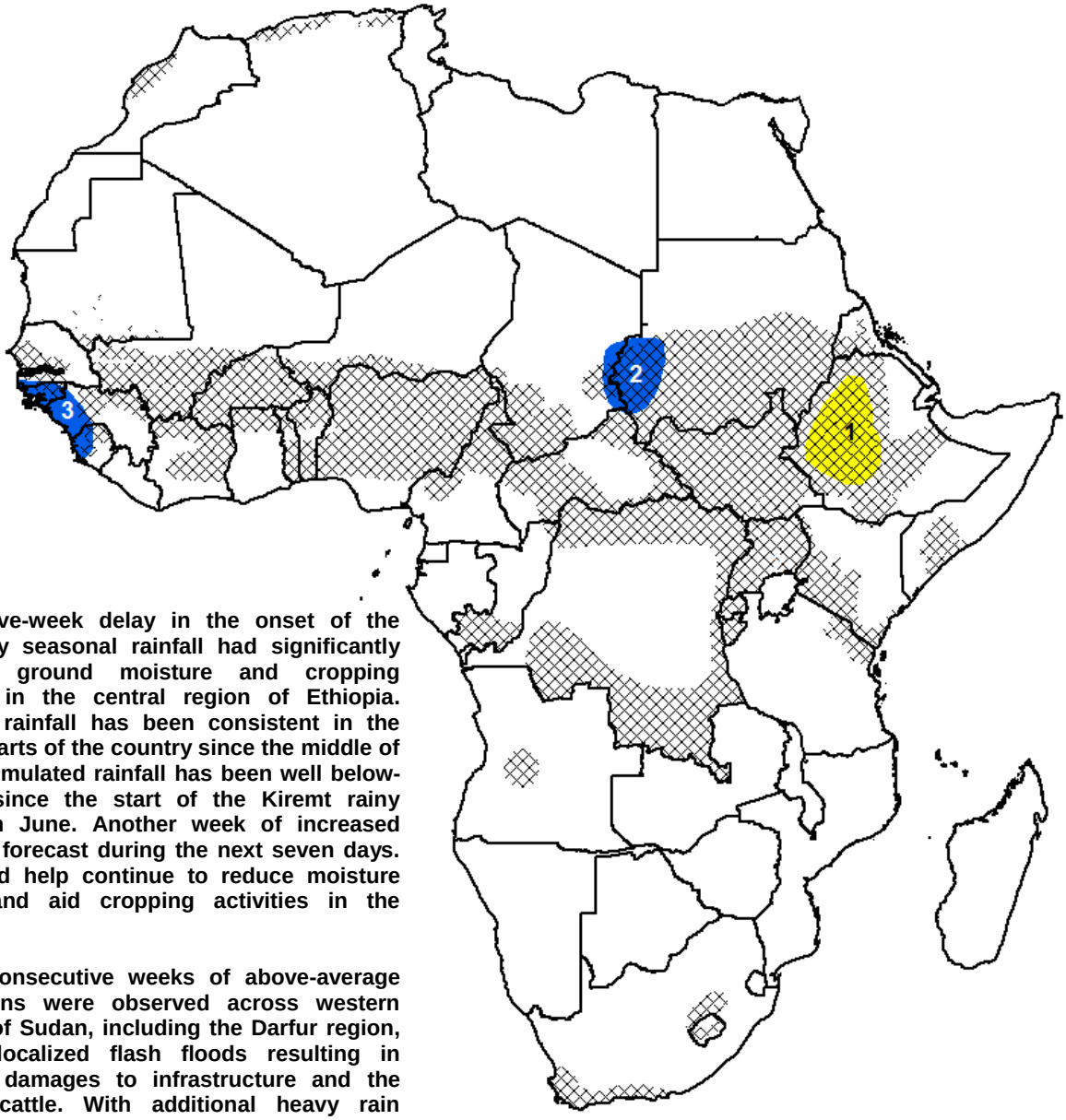
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
July 12 – July 18, 2012

- **Heavy rains cause flooding in Sierra Leone during the past week.**

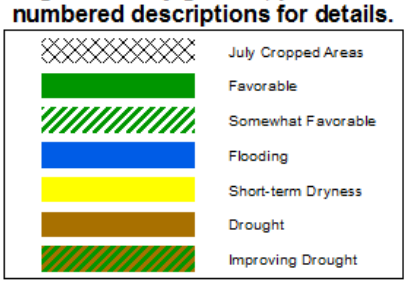


1) The five-week delay in the onset of the March-May seasonal rainfall had significantly impacted ground moisture and cropping activities in the central region of Ethiopia. Although rainfall has been consistent in the western parts of the country since the middle of May, accumulated rainfall has been well below-average since the start of the Kiremt rainy season in June. Another week of increased rainfall is forecast during the next seven days. This could help continue to reduce moisture deficits and aid cropping activities in the region.

2) Two consecutive weeks of above-average heavy rains were observed across western portions of Sudan, including the Darfur region, causing localized flash floods resulting in fatalities, damages to infrastructure and the loss of cattle. With additional heavy rain forecast for the next week, flash flooding risks will be elevated.

3) Torrential coastal rain showers across far western West Africa have resulted in flash flooding in Sierra Leone. With an increase in easterly wave activity and subsequent heavy rains forecast, there is an increased chance for flooding during the next week.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Widespread heavy rain continues across West Africa

During the past seven days, heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded across much of West Africa. The above-average rains continued for a third consecutive week. The heaviest rains (>75mm) fell across western Mali, southwestern Burkina Faso, northern Togo and Benin, coastal Nigeria and Sierra Leone (**Figure 1**). Torrential daily rainfall in Sierra Leone resulted in flash flooding which caused fatalities and damages to infrastructure. Several weeks of abundant rains have also caused flooding in Lagos, Nigeria. A second week of above-average weekly rains has further increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses across most of West Africa. The heavy rains in northwestern Nigeria and western Niger have reduced thirty-day deficits and improved ground conditions across locally dry portions of northern Nigeria. Good soil conditions should exist across much of the Sahel. Elsewhere, the anomalously northern position of the ITF since May could lead to favorable conditions for the breeding and migration of desert locusts into the Sahel region.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: July 3rd – July 9th, 2012

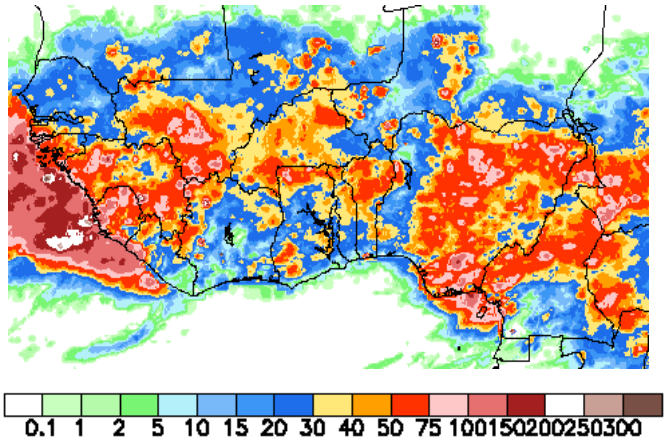


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Above-average, heavy rainfall during the third dekad of June has led to saturated conditions in central Mali, Burkina Faso, northeastern Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and eastern Nigeria. The abundant rains have already caused flooding around Lagos, damaging infrastructure. As indicated in an analysis of basin excess rainfall, a large area of West Africa has experience above-average rains during the third dekad of June (**Figure 2**). Heavy rains have continued during the beginning of July maintaining saturated conditions.

Basin Excess Rainfall Map - Catchments
Valid: As of the 3rd Dekad of June, 2012

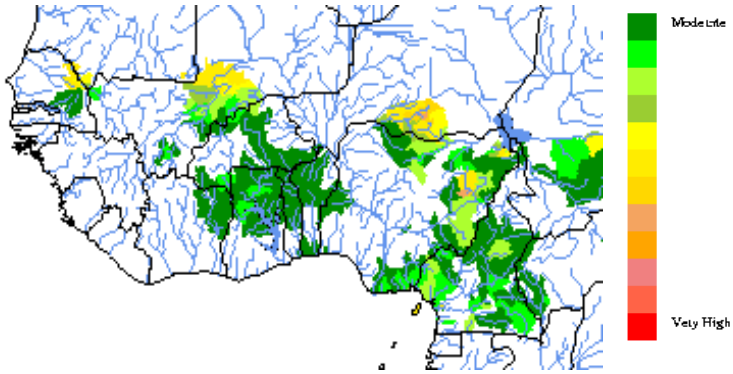


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

An increase in easterly wave activity is expected to result in heavy rains (>75mm) in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone which could cause localized flash flooding. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rain (>30mm) is forecast in Mali, Burkina Faso, southern Niger, Nigeria, northern Cote D'Ivoire, northern Ghana, Togo and Benin. Lighter rainfall (<15mm) is expected across bi-modal areas in Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana.

Poor ground conditions were maintained in Ethiopia.

During the past week, heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded across South Sudan, Sudan and Ethiopia. The heaviest rains (>75mm) were observed across southern South Sudan and were >50mm above-average for the week. Heavy rains in the Darfur region of Sudan continued saturated conditions. Meanwhile, farther east, heavy, seasonal rains returned to western, central and northern Ethiopia reducing strong seasonal rainfall deficits and improving ground conditions. However, analysis of vegetation conditions through the beginning of July still indicate poor conditions as a result of a failed Belg season and a slow start to Kiremt seasonal rains. Additional weeks of average to above-average rains are still needed for recovery. Vegetation conditions are better across South Sudan and Sudan (**Figure 3**). For the next week, above-average rain is expected across the Darfur region of Sudan increasing flooding risks while heavy seasonal rains (>50mm) are forecast across western, central and northern Ethiopia helping to reduce seasonal rainfall deficits.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Anomaly
Valid: June 26th – July 5th, 2012

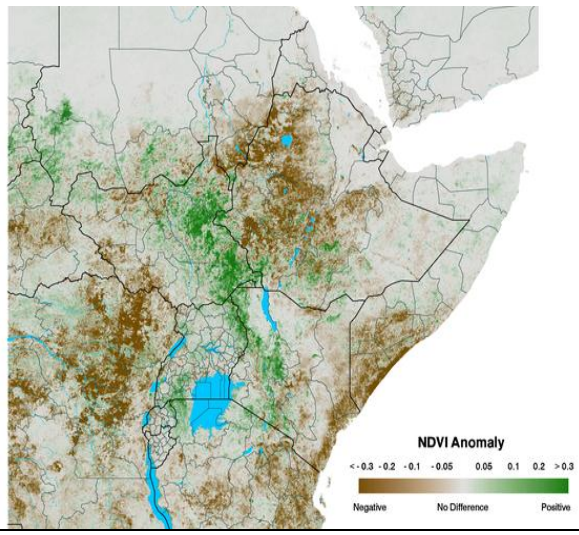


Figure 3: USGS/EROS

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.